

**SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS:**

Please replace the title as follows --

**ADJUSTABLE LENGTH TUBE, ESPECIALLY FOR STICKS --.**

On page 1, replace, between the title and the first paragraph,  
"Description" with --

This application is the national stage of PCT/EP03/03805 filed on  
April 11, 2003 and also claims Paris Convention priority of  
DE 202 07 554.0 filed on May 08, 2002.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION --.**

Please amend the first paragraph of page one as follows --

The present invention relates to an adjustable-length tube,  
especially for ~~sticks~~<sup>±</sup> sticks, in accordance with the ~~preamble of~~  
~~Claim 1~~ independent claim. --.

Please delete the "translator's note " at the end of page 1.

On page 2, insert as a title prior to the first paragraph

**-- SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION --.**

Please amend the first paragraph of page two as follows --

The features indicated in ~~Claim 1~~ the independent claim are put forward to achieve this objective in an adjustable-length tube, especially for sticks, of the aforementioned ~~species~~ kind. --.

Please amend the third paragraph of page two as follows --

In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the spreading element is configured in a pot-like fashion, with a pot base being penetrated by a free end area of said adjusting screw, facing away from said inner tube. In another preferred embodiment, the spreading element comprises a cylindrical shoulder having a smaller exterior diameter and facing said inner tube, with the shoulder being axially guided at one area of said end of said inner tube. In both these embodiments, A jam-free a jam-free guiding of the spreading element within the given axial movability is provided by the features as recited in Claim 2 and/or 3. --.

Please amend the fourth paragraph of page two as follows --

In an advantageous embodiment ~~Advantageous embodiments~~ with regard to the outer limit stop for the spreading element, the outer limit stop is formed by a cap that is axially secured at the free end of the adjusting screw after the spreading element has been set in place.  
~~will become apparent from the features of Claim 4 or those of Claim 5. In the former case, the~~ The assembly of the spreading element thereby takes place before the attachment of the outer limit stop, ~~whereas in the latter case, with the stop already provided, the spreading element is configures such that it can be placed onto the adjusting screw and the interior element radially.~~ -

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Please add the following paragraph directly following the fourth paragraph of page two --

In an alternative embodiment of the invention, the exterior limit stop is formed by a head that is moulded onto the free end of the adjusting screw, and the spreading element has a peripheral slot that extends along an entire axial length thereof. With the stop already provided, the spreading element is configured such that it can be radially placed onto the adjusting screw and the interior element. --.

Please amend the fifth paragraph of page two as follows --

In one ~~One~~ advantageous embodiment of the inner limit stop, the spreading device has a plug that accommodates the adjusting screw in an axial and rotationally fixed manner, the plug being supported axially and in a rotationally fixed manner in the inner tube and defining the inner limit stop. The plug has an axially protruding guide member cooperating with the cylindrical shoulder of the spreading element. ~~will become apparent from the features as recited in Claim 6.~~ --.

Please amend the sixth paragraph of page two as follows --

In an embodiment of the invention, the interior element has one or more radially protruding fins, which are guided in axial slots of the spreading element. ~~The features as recited in Claim 7 are put forward to achieve a~~ A rotationally fixed axial movability of the interior element with respect to the spreading element is thereby achieved. --.

On page 3 insert as a title prior to the brief description of the drawing --

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

On page 3 insert as a title following the brief description of the drawing

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DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT --.